

(d) forming on the rear surface of each modular block, an elongated tab having approximately the width of one of the recesses on the gauge bar, said tab having a hole therein;

(e) removably attaching gauge elements by their proximal end portions in each of the modular blocks, in parallel relationship to said side surfaces so that distal end portions of the gauge elements protrude from the modular blocks; and

(f) adjacently securing the modular blocks on the side portion of the gauge bar by interfitting the tab of each modular block in a recess on the gauge bar and using a fastener associated with the hole on the tab of each modular block.

16. The process of claim 15 including the step of removing a selected modular block having a damaged gauge element and replacing said block with a modular block having only undamaged gauge elements.

17. The process of claim 16 wherein a damaged gauge element is removed from the selected modular block, and replaced with a new gauge element.

18. The process of claim 15 wherein the step of securing the modular blocks to the gauge bar includes the step of resting the bottom portion of the modular block on the guide bar inserting the detent of the modular block in a recess of the gauge bar and passing a fastener through an opening in the detent into a receiving hole in the recess on the gauge bar.

19. In a tufting machine a modular gauge assembly comprising:

(a) an elongated gauge bar with a straight side extending along at least a portion of the length of the gauge bar, the straight side portion of the gauge bar having, a plurality of spaced recesses defined therein, and an opening defined within the recessed portion of the gauge bar;

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(b) a plurality of modular blocks for engaging the straight side of the guide bar, each modular block having a detent which aligns with a recess in the gauge bar and having:

(i) a rear surface;

(ii) spaced parallel tufting machine gauge elements protruding from the modular block, the modular block having a row of gauge element openings for receiving the gauge elements in the block;

(iii) screw pin openings corresponding to each gauge element, each of the openings capable of receiving a screw-pin to secure the gauge element to the block;

(iv) a receiving hole on the detent of the receiving block;

(c) a fastener passing through the opening on the gauge bar into the receiving hole on the corresponding modular block for removably securing the modular blocks to the gauge bar.

20. The modular gauge assembly of claim 21 wherein the detent of each mounting block comprises a raised member defined on the rear surface of the modular block, said raised member being sized and shaped to be received within one of the spaced recesses in the gauge bar.

21. A modular block assembly for use in a tufting machine comprising:

(a) a modular block having a front surface, a pair of opposed side surfaces, a rear surface, a top surface and a bottom surface;

(b) a detent extending from a surface of the modular block and having an opening therein;

(c) a plurality of vertical parallel slots separated by vertical walls having openings therein, and spaced between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block;

(d) a plurality of gauge elements having a distal end and a proximal end with an opening therein, the proximal ends of said gauge elements being received in the vertical parallel slots of the modular block;

(e) an opening extending laterally between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block;

(f) a securing pin extending through the lateral opening in the opposing sided surfaces, the opening in the proximal ends of the gauge elements, and the openings in the vertical walls.